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VETO MESSAGE

— OF —

GOVERNOR PICKERING

TO THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OF THE

TERRITORY OF WASHINGTON,

RELATIVE TO

AN ACT ESTABLISHING PILOTAGE ON THE STRAITS OF FUCA AND PUGET SOUND.

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VETO MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Olympia, January 16 1865.

To the Hon. F. P. Dugan, Speaker, and Members of the House of Represtatives of the Legislative Assembly of Washington Territory:

GENTLEMEN—On the 12th day of January, 1865, I received from your Honorable Body, and from the Honorable Council, an act for establishing compulsory pilotage over all the navigable waters of the Strait of Fuca and Puget Sound.

Respecting said act, I beg leave to state, that in the history of our Territorial legislation, I find there have been repeated efforts made to establish a system of pilotage on all the waters of said strait and said Sound, which have always, until the present session, been successfully opposed by the majority of ship owners, commercial men, and by the farming and industrial population of this Territory, upon the general plea that it was imposing a useless, unnecessary and uncalled for tax upon the commerce of Washington Territory, for the well-known and university admitted reason that no similar body of land-locked, and

therefore safe and secure extent of deep water, for all navigable purposes, has ever yet been found to exist in any part of the world, where fewer of the dangers and difficulties incident to navigation are any where to be found. If this view is correct, wny should we impose this extra burthen, cost and tax upon the commerce and upon the population of our Territory?

For although the large amount of pilot fees would be in the first instance by all the ship owners and by all the merchants, yet in the end the whole amount of the large sums of money that would be extorted for pilot fees, with unerring certainty would all have to be paid out of the pockets of the laboring population, who are the real producers and the real consumers.

Entertaining these views, I cannot consistently approve of said act, and therefore respectfully return the bill to your honorable body, where it originated.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PICKERING,

Governor of Washington Territory.